

ABSTRACT

In the coding method of the present invention, by adding an identification signal for indicating that there is no need to reorder coded pictures in the case where no picture coded by referring to a
5 single or two pictures in the backward direction in display order is included in the sequence data, a restriction on pictures not to refer to any picture except the pictures that are positioned in the temporally forward direction is imposed and pictures are coded in the same order as the display order. Also, in the decoding method,
10 only pictures that are positioned in the temporally forward direction are referred to according to the above-mentioned identification signal and these coded pictures are decoded in the same order as the display order.